

**Appl. No.** : 10/668,852  
**Filed** : September 22, 2003

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended, and Claim 2 has been cancelled. Thus, Claims 1 and 3-5 remain pending.

#### Rejections over the Prior Art

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 4-5 as anticipated by Totsuka et al. (EP 0 557 928 A1). The Examiner has also rejected Claims 2-3 as unpatentable over Totsuka in view of Gellatly (U.S. Patent 4,706,692). The limitations from dependent Claim 2 have been added to Claim 1, and Claim 2 has been cancelled. Thus, it is believed the rejection under 102(b) has been overcome.

With respect to the rejection under 103(a) over the combination of Totsuka and Gellatly, the Applicant respectfully submits that there is no suggestion or motivation to combine these references.

First, Gellatly is directed to tobacco sizing equipment, and one of skill in the art of metal coating would not look to the tobacco production field to solve problems related to metal coatings. The Gellatly system is directed to preventing a weak and easily torn substrate from being damaged during a process that coats both sides of the sheet.

Second, Totsuka teaches away from using a top feed system. On Page 7, lines 56-58, Totsuka explains that a bottom feed pan system with a stirrer or circulator should be used to avoid metal particle settling. This is more expensive and cumbersome to use than the claimed top feed system which cures the same problem in much more cost effective and simple manner as explained on page 16 of the specification as filed.

Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 4-5, which are now rejected by the Examiner for double patenting, were restricted out of the parent application in response to a Restriction Requirement issued in that case on May 21, 2002. That application has now matured into U.S. Patent 6,670,031. No change to these claims has been made, they were considered a part of Group II in that restriction requirement, along with their parent method Claims 21-23.

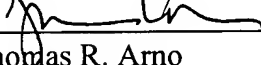
The applicant respectfully submits that pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121, U.S. Patent 6,670,031 is not available as a reference against these claims.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 7/12/04

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